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offended by the opinions of Herbert and Cowper. The selections have a wide range, and run back from the poets of our own day to those of the seventeenth, and even the sixteenth century.

A fault we are ready to find with the book here and there — the more readily because the editor has shown so much carefulness of choice that she might herself feel the force of the criticism — is, that many of the poems in it addressed to, or written about, children, like most of those of the same class to be found elsewhere, are marked by a fastidious sentiment which makes it at once impossible and undesirable that they should interest children “from eight to fourteen,” for whom the volume is particularly intended. Verses of the stamp of those of Keble on “Saying the Creed” (p. 137), or of the well-known lines by Mr. Willis (p. 273) descriptive of the devout infantine astronomer, can little benefit any child; while Mrs. Judson’s maternal *gush* (p. 152) about her “loving birdling” with “silken-fringed rose-leaves on her starry eyes,” is somewhat tiresome even to one fond of children.

It would seem, too, as if distance must wonderfully magnify poetical beauties, if in England Mrs. Sigourney’s verses on “The Lost Day” (p. 129) are thought well of, with their first line, “Lost! lost! lost!” which sounds like a converted echo, — an echo “under conviction” of the cry of the goblin dwarf in “The Lay of the Last Minstrel.” Putting by the side of these feeble eight verses Mr. Emerson’s noble eight lines called “Days,” the contrast between “the grand style” and a common style may be fully felt. But to make up for these and other poor American effusions, there are copious and sufficiently well-chosen extracts from Mr. Longfellow, who has expressed so many of the purest and most delicate emotions with the highest truth and simplicity. Indeed, the volume contains many both familiar and unfamiliar poems of great beauty.

13.—*The Ballad Book: a Selection of the choicest British Ballads.*

Edited by WILLIAM ALLINGHAM, Author of “Day and Night Songs,” etc. Cambridge: Sever and Francis. 16mo. pp. xlvii., 397. [Reprint.]

MR. ALLINGHAM has arranged in this pretty and pleasant volume seventy-six of the old ballads chosen for those characteristics which secure them general popularity. It is a selection not meant for the scholar, certainly not intended for the special student of ballad literature, but to bring anew before the public what charmed our fathers and our more distant ancestors. And it is, as such a collection always must be, a delightful book, from the character of the poems themselves, and from the associations and suggestions connected with them.

The old English and Scotch ballads have the perennial charm of simplicity of feeling and directness of expression. Aladdin's old lamp is worth more than the new ones, and our poets (of Mr. Allingham's standing) do well when they exert themselves to rub up the old, rather than to make new lamps. But let not too much polishing be done; above all, let no recasting be attempted. It is a literary crime to make an old thing new; yet this has been Mr. Allingham's temptation. We owe him thanks that he has yielded to it so little. He has, in fact, done no more than most of his brother editors have done before him; but are we to have these ballads, many of them so famous, and now so familiar, rearranged for each successive generation? Mr. Allingham has collected of the different ballads the various versions now before the public, attempting to select the stanzas of greatest merit from each copy, and to set forth the story in a complete and consistent form. "A better ballad is the result," is his own judgment upon his work, in one instance avowedly, and inferentially in all. His alterations, generally verbal, are not very great, nor, if alterations are to be allowed at all, very blameworthy. But we can find no suggestion nor see the reason for such changes as, for example, this, of a verse in the *Dowie Dens of Yarrow*, or, as Mr. Allingham has it, "*The Banks of Yarrow*." The previously accepted version reads:

"O fare ye weel, my ladye gaye,
O fare ye weel, my Sarah!
For I maun gae, though I ne'er return
Frae the dowie banks of Yarrow."

Mr. Allingham's reads:

"O fare ye weel, my lady dear!
And put aside your sorrow;
For if I gae, I'll sune return
Frae the bonny banks o' Yarrow."

The effective and beautiful ballad of "*The Cruel Brother*" is singularly twisted and turned; and we question the taste which selects that version of Sir Patrick Spens from which are omitted the two picturesque and vigorous verses:—

"The first time that Sir Patrick red,
A loud lauch lauched he.
The next time that Sir Patrick red,
The teir blinded his ee.
"O quhar is this has don this deid,
This ill deid don to me,
To send me out this time o' the yeir
To sail upon the se?"

Mr. Allingham speaks in his Preface of Professor Child's most valuable and complete collection of Ballads with the somewhat superficial tone and *jaunty* manner that pervade all he says, and shows little appreciation of the learning and labor involved in Professor Child's researches. But it may be observed that he makes use of the results of them, especially in those of the Robin Hood ballads which he reprints, for the most part wisely following precisely the version given by Professor Child, though occasionally omitting a verse, and "improving" them by "an abatement of the very strong swearing," to use his words, or by a weakening of forcible expressions, to use our own. With all abatements, the volume is a delightful one, and a charming present for any one of quick imagination and tender sympathies.

14. — *Notices of the Triennial and Annual Catalogues of Harvard University: with a Reprint of the Catalogues of 1674, 1682, and 1700.* By JOHN LANGDON SIBLEY, A. M., Librarian of Harvard University, and Member of the Massachusetts and other Historical Societies. Boston. 1865. 8vo. pp. 61.

A MOST unattractive title, except to an antiquary of the driest class. Yet we assure our readers — especially such of them as are Cambridge graduates — that the pamphlet will give them pleasure, nay, even amusement, no less than instruction. Mr. Sibley has interwoven with his history of the Harvard Catalogues many collateral scraps of College history and personal anecdote, some of them nowhere else accessible except in manuscript records. The work is thoroughly and carefully done, with the utmost neatness of style and method, and printed, too, accurately and beautifully. It is a monograph unique in its kind, and one of the class of publications which are growing at once more difficult and more precious every year, with the obliteration of old historical landmarks, the destruction of documents, and the obsolescence of local traditions.

15. — *History of Thomaston, Rockland, and South Thomaston, Maine, from their first Exploration, A. D. 1605; with Family Genealogies.* By CYRUS EATON, Cor. Member of the Mass. Hist. Society, also of the Wisconsin Hist. Society, and Member Elect of the Maine Hist. Society. Hallowell. 1865. 2 vols. 12mo. pp. 468, 472.

MR. EATON is totally blind, and has for his only amanuensis a daughter who is almost helplessly infirm. He has accomplished this work

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3. The Comedy of DANTE ALLIGHIERI. Part I. The Hell. Translated into Blank Verse by WILLIAM MICHAEL ROSSETTI, with Introductions and Notes.

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ERRATA IN NO. CCX.

Page 161, line 12, *for* 1826, *read* 1806.

" 274, " 1, " perspicuity, *read* perspicacity.

" 317, " 12, " collected, " collated.

" " " 35 and 37, *for* time, " line.